कार्यरत अल्प वयस्क बालकों और मजदूरों में सिलिकोसिस जैसी खतरनाक बीमारियों के पाए जाने की बात कही गई है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो क्या सरकार ने इस समस्या के समाधान हेतु अब तक कोई कदम उठाया है;

(ग) यदि नहीं, तो इसके क्या कारण हैं;

(घ) क्या सरकार इन खानों में काम कर रहे बच्चों को मुक्त कराने के लिए कारगर कदम उठा रही है;

(ङ) यदि हां, तो उसका ब्यौरा क्या है; और

(च) वहां काम कर रहे सभी श्रमिकों की चिकित्सकीय जांच और रोग निदान हेतु सरकार द्वारा क्या प्रबन्ध किए गए हैं?

स्वास्थ्य और परिवार कल्याण मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (श्री सलीम इकबाल शेरवानी): (क) से (च) सूचना एकत्र की जा रही है और सदन के पटल पर रख दी जाएगी।

Request by Financial Institutions for Relaxation of Lending

941. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE: SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:

Will the MINISTER OF FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether with a view to obviating the cash-crunch in the market, the financial institutions (FIs) have requested Government for relaxation of lending norms;

(b) if so, what specific difficulties were enumerated to Government by the FIs; -and

(c) what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND THE MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM):

(a) No, Sir. The lending norms are decided by the financial institutions on their own without reference to Government.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Applications Pending with Settlement Commission

942. SHRI GOPAL SINH G. SOLANKI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) particulars of applications (year-wise and bench-wise) lying pending in principl bench and other benches of Settlement Commission (Income tax & wealth tax), alongwith the date of filing of applications and amount of tax admitted in each case and circumstances under which these specific applications were neither admitted nor rejected while other applications filed even later than these were admitted and settled; and

(b) the reasons that supervisory/controlling Ministry had not kept any check/
control on the activities of this commissioninsipite of adverse remarks in the report of the Tax Reforms Committee headed by Shri C. Raja Chellaiah?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND THE MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM):

(a) The particulars of pendency of applications for admission and admitted cases pending (year-wise) are submitted in the statement 'A' and 'B', enclosed *(see* below). The time which will be spent in collecting the information in each case will not be commensurate with the purpose for which the Question has been asked. Ordinarily settlement applications are taken up for admission in chronological order. However, in exceptional circumstances applications are taken up for admission out of turn. Such circumstances include cases or group of cases where additional tax offered is more than Rs. 10 lakhs, grouping of cases for consolidated and coordinated disposal of entire group of cases, cases where admission hearing is not necessary and cases where the reports of the Commissioner of Income-tax have been received even though filed later than other cases.

(b) the Settlement Commission being a high powered Commission has its own mechanism for checks and controls. Under the Finance Act, 1995, the thresh hold limit for approaching the Commission have been raised to Rs. 1 lakh, steps have also been taken to monitor the pendency of cases and for filling up of the vacancies and provision of infrastructural facilities, for effective functioning of the Commission. Settlement Commission being a guasi judicial body, the Government can only monitor its functioning which is being done regularly.

Stalement-A

Age-wise pendency of cases awaiting admition with reference to the Financial Year in which the Settlement Application filed

Financial Year in which No. application filed	of applications pending for admission at May, 1996			the end of the month of	
	Principal Bench DELHI	Additional Bench MUMBAI	Additional Bench CALCUTTA	Additional Bench MADRAS	Total
1987-88	—	—	—	—	—
1988-89	—	—	—	—	—
1989-90	—	—	—	—	—
1990-91	—	—	—	—	—
1991-92	—	—	—	—	—
1992-93	—	1	' —	—	1
1993-94	10	12	—	—	22
1994-95	65	46	16	—	127
1995-96	163	136	44	58	401
1996-97	15	25	2	7	49
TOTAL	253	220	62	65	600

Statement-B

Age-wise Pendency of admitted cases with reference to the Financial Year in which the Settlement Application filed

Financial Year in which applicatio n filed	No. of admitted	applications pending at the end of the May, 1996			month of
	Principal Bench DELHI	Additional Bench MUMBAI	Additional Bench CALCUTTA	Additional Bench MADRAS	Total
1977-78	—	—	1	—	1
1978-79	—	—	—	—	—
1979-80	—	—	4	—	4
1980-81	1	—	1	—	2
1981-82	—	—	—	—	—
1982-83	7	—	1	—	8
1983-84	5	—	—	—	5
1984-85	10	—	2	—	12

Financial Year in which application filed	No. of admitted	! applications pending at the end of the May, 1996			month of
	Principal Bench DELHI	Additional Bench MUMBAI	Additional Bench CALCUTTA	Additional Bench MADRAS	Total
1985-86	17	—	—	—	17
1986-87	11	—	—	—	11
1987-88	26	1	—	—	27
1988-89	86	—	1	—	87
1989-90	105	—	1	1	107
1990-91	120	—	4	—	124
1991-92	106	18	42	—	166
1992-93	103	105	63	1	272
1993-94	119	176	124	60	479
1994-95	42	120	55	119	336
1995-96	10	38	14	76	138
TOTAL	768	458	313	257	1790

वायुदूत के पुराने विमानों के बदले छोटे विमानों की खरीद

943. **श्री एस० एस० सुरजेवाला:**
श्री अजीत जोगी:

क्या नागर विमानन मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या सरकार कम यातायात वाले फीडर एवं अन्य मार्गों के लिए विशेषतः वायुदूत के पुराने विमानों के बदले छोटे विमान खरीदने के बारे में विचार कर रही है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो उसका ब्यौरा क्या है;

(ग) इस संबंध में विभिन्न फर्मों के साथ चल रही वार्ता का ब्यौरा क्या है, तथा ये विमान किस प्रकार के हैं; और

(घ) इस संबंध में वर्तमान स्थिति क्या है?

नागर विमानन मंत्री (श्री सी० एम० इब्राहिम): (क) से (घ) इंडियन एयरलाइन्स का पूर्वोत्तर भारत और महत्व के अन्य स्थानों में प्रचालनों के लिए कुछ 50 सीटों वाले विमान प्राप्त करने का प्रस्ताव है।

Proposal for opening a bench of Supreme Court in South

944. SHRI JOY NADUKKARA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal pending before Government for opening a bench of the Supreme Court in South; and

(b) if so, whether Government would take steps for the opening of a bench of Supreme Court in the South since the Southerners are finding it difficult to approach the Supreme Court due to financial and other reasons?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPTT. OF LEGAL AFFAIRS, LEGISLATIVE DEPTT. AND DEPTT. OF JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP): (a) and (b) Representations/ suggestions have been received from time to time from certain State Governments, Bar Associations etc. for establishing Benches of Supreme Court in various parts of the country, including South India.